Today's

The Herald-Palladium

included inside

Vikings edge Eddies, clinch 9-0 season

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Dowagiac News

Established 1897 • Serving Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and Cassopolis **NOVEMBER 1, 2025** leaderpub.com • A publication of The Herald-Palladium **$4**

Dowagiac approves grant for South Front Street project

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac City Council addressed several routine financial resolutions and approved a state grant for the city's South Front Street renovation project during its meeting Monday at city hall.

The council unanimously approved a resolution to accept a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the South Front Street renovation project.

The grant covers Phase 1 of the project, focusing on Mill Pond Park at the end of South Front Street. The work includes redoing the footbridge, adding kayak and water access points and creating new trails and parking. The grant will provide $300,000 toward the total project cost of $512,000. The application was originally submitted in April 2024 but was delayed at the state level.

Council approved a resolution to accept a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the South Front Street renovation project, with Phase 1 of the project focusing on Mill Pond Park at the end of South Front Street.
Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

The city plans to move forward with construction starting in the spring. While the city had hoped to have design work ready for bidding now, it will likely be ready next year.

"Usually, we see these grant agreements come in the springtime," said Assistant City Manager Amanda Sleigh. "With budget concerns at the state level, they were delayed but we're ready to get those projects moving."

In other business, council approved two resolutions levying special assessments for delinquent utilities and one for outstanding mowing and blight invoices. Twice each year, the Building and Customer Service Departments review accounts to develop a list of billings that are six months or more past due. These outstanding balances can be placed as liens on the property tax bills. Approved by the council, the liens will now be placed onto the Winter 2025 tax bills for collection.

Council also approved an updated personnel policy regarding sick time. The change was driven by recent state-level amendments to the employee sick leave policy. The amendments combine existing sick time into a single time bank of 72 hours to comply with state requirements. The policy now also formalizes that part-time employees will earn one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked. The change was made to ensure that no employees lose any time off previously given.

Gennavieve Martynowicz

Alexandra Westphal

Brylee Jones

Kayla Grover

Miss Cassopolis Pageant set for Nov. 15

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — Next month, Cassopolis youth will take the stage to participate in the Miss Cassopolis court.

The 2026 Miss Cassopolis pageant will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15 with doors opening at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Ross Beatty High School auditorium, 22721 Diamond Cove St.

Tickets are available from contestants for $20 at the door.

Miss and Mr. Cassopolis will go on to represent Cassopolis and compete in the Miss & Mr. Blossomtime Pageant.

Little Miss Cassopolis Contestants:
- Madalynn Sampson
- Addison Green
- Addalyn Hutchins

Miss Junior Teen Cassopolis Contestants:
- Bexley Hunsberger
- Caraline Martynowicz
- Kylee Sampson

Mr. Teen Cassopolis Contestant:
- Daniel Mathews

Miss Cassopolis Contestants:
- Gennavieve Martynowicz
- Alexandra Westphal
- Brylee Jones
- Kayla Grover

DART celebrates 50th anniversary with debut of new fleet, food drive

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Dowagiac's local ride-share service 50th anniversary was celebrated with much fanfare Monday morning.

City and county officials, community members and volunteers were on hand to celebrate the debut of Dowagiac Dial-A-Ride Transit's new vehicle fleet. In addition, the city partnered with local grocery stores Family Fare, Harding's Market and Save A Lot to have the new buses parked in their lots Monday morning through the afternoon for Stuff-A-Bus events.

The fleet has been upgraded with three new vehicles which feature wider, higher-capacity lifts, video displays that feature pertinent announcements and other information, passenger-assist handles on the boarding doors and all-new design.

Cass County Transportation Coordinator Gerry Bundle said county transportation technician Jimmie Anderson played a key

See **DART**, page A6

Q&A

Photo provided

Patrick Bakeman

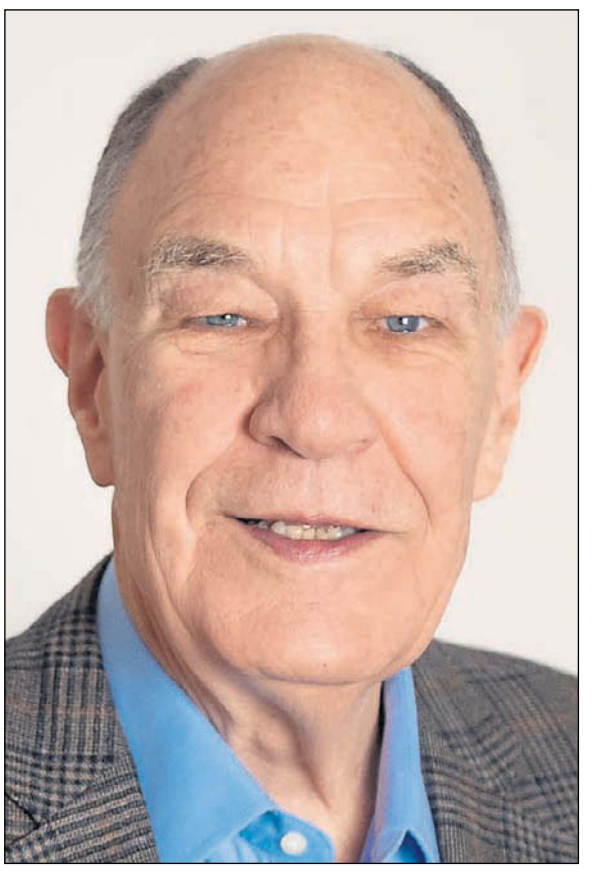

Photo provided

Donald Lyons

Meet Dowagiac's mayoral candidates

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Patrick Bakeman will challenge incumbent Donald Lyons for the City of Dowagiac mayoral seat in the upcoming Nov. 4 election.

Listed below are Q&As with both candidates, who were asked to respond to the same set of questions:

What is your background, and how will it help you to serve this community as mayor? Why are you running for this office?

Lyons: I started my own business over 55 years ago. It has grown into one of the largest, most sophisticated businesses of its kind in the country. I've been in public service over 50 years, including 28 years as mayor. I would like one more term to help the orderly transition to a new mayor and a new way of running Dowagiac.

Bakeman: Born and raised in Dowagiac, I returned home after barber college and working in the Detroit suburbs to open Bakeman Barbers with my wife, Ravan. This background, combined with years of City Council service, gives me a unique perspective. I am running to bridge our residents' daily needs with effective governance and am ready to lead Dowagiac's future.

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset as mayor?

Lyons: I have a bachelor's degree in business administration and a minor in mathematics from Michigan State University. I built and ran my own business, whose revenue and employment is three times larger than the city's. I was on the Dowagiac School Board for eight years. My help to complete projects in which I'm already involved would be important.

Bakeman: After eight years on the City Council, I understand our city's strengths, challenges and incredible potential. I'm running for Mayor to open a new chapter built on collaboration and transparency. My experience allows me to build consensus and turn ideas into real results that reflect our community's values.

What are the most important challenges facing the community, and how do you propose to address them?

Lyons: The overarching challenge that impacts every aspect of the city is finding the money necessary to do all that needs to be done. The only answer is to get grants. The city is very good at getting grants but we could be better. I'm already working on a plan to improve the writing and executing of grants.

Bakeman: Dowagiac is a beautiful place to live, work, and play. I want to help reverse population and business decline by focusing on our strengths and promoting them. That means supporting our local workforce, highlighting our quality of life and creating a proactive business development plan. We need to attract new businesses, support our existing ones and show entrepreneurs that Dowagiac is a place worth investing in.

See **CANDIDATES**, page A4

6 54708 08550 2

Today's obituaries **Pages A3-A4**

William Goins, Phyllis Zawisa, Thomas Cooper, Mary Bybee, Adam Saltsman, Steven Gordon, Jamie Rodriguez, Mary Heimberger, Timothy Dunkel III, Andrew Johnson, Donald Pierce, Ben Pompey

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Comics	B5	Home & Garden	C8	Television	D3

FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ The federal government has been hurting its people for years. Finally, one man has stood up to the lifelong political do-nothing losers.

■ What's in it for me? This should be the 2028 Trump campaign theme.

■ Since Trump came into office, it's been nothing but Democrats trying to jail him for everything. Let the man straighten out the US.

■ What if Obama said the US owes him 230 million? Would House Speaker Johnson have given the same response to reporters that he did about Trump?

■ Trump blatantly lied about not disturbing the White House with demolition. Hard to believe we will actually have a dining hall larger than the White House itself. And, this is for the people? What time do I get to eat?

■ If you are stuck on democrats and republicans, you have no idea what is actually going on.

■ Thank you to all our police departments for helping to clean-up the sex trafficking.

■ Vikings Football is simply amazing. Wow!

WEATHER

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 51. Light southwest wind becoming west 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers before 2am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. Calm wind.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 53. Light south wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers after 2am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Monday: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly before 8am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 58.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Home away from home

Dowagiac house converted into dorm for U-M dentistry students

STAFF REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Cass Family Clinic has converted a home on M-51 in Dowagiac to provide free housing for University of Michigan dental students during their clinical rotations at Cass Family Clinic's dental facilities in Cassopolis and Niles.

Cass Family Clinic held a ribbon cutting at the newly-remodeled dorm on Oct. 24. Located next to Cass Family Clinic's new Dowagiac location, the dorm features four bedrooms, four bathrooms, a kitchen, dining area, living room, and an outside patio for the students.

"With a few modifications to an existing house in Dowagiac, we are now able to provide a welcoming home for our University of Michigan dental interns as they complete their rotations," said Cass Family Clinic CEO Joe Gavan. "We're thrilled to be able to offer them an inviting and convenient place to stay during their time with us at Cass Family Clinic."

Cass Family Clinic has been partnering with the University of Michigan School of Dentistry for the past three years to provide hands-on clinical experience to fourth-year dental students during the school year.

This year, Cass Family Clinic will host a total of 36 students – with four dental students coming in for two weeks at a time, rotating between the organization's Niles and Cassopolis dental clinics.

"It's a great way for us to see more patients at the clinic and be able to meet the continuous demands of the community," said Dr. Madison Mick, dental director at Cass Family Clinic, who was the only dentist on staff when the program started in 2022. "As a dentist, it allows me to practice, while also teach students and explain the why behind what we're doing."

During their rotations, the dental students form relationships with Cass Family Clinic's dental staff, build patient rapport, practice their chair-side manners with patients, and perform certain dental procedures.

Photo provided

On Oct. 24, Cass Family Clinic Board President Tracey Hertsel (middle) and Cass Family Clinic Dental Director Dr. Madison Mick (middle right) cut the ribbon on the organization's new dorm, which will house University of Michigan dental students during their rotational clinics at Cass Family Clinic. Also pictured are: Cass Family Clinic CEO Joe Gavan, Melanie Buck of Cass Family Clinic's dental department, former Cass County Sheriff Rick Behnke, and University of Michigan students.

"They're learning what it is like to work in a clinical setting and get a real feel for how a dental clinic flows during a typical day," said Dr. Mick. "While at Cass Family Clinic dental clinic, they're truly understanding how much time it takes to get through a procedure – which is an important skill to have – and that takes practice."

Dr. Sarah A. Tomaka, DDS, MPH, assistant dean of Community-Based Collaborative Care and Education (CBCE) and clinical assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences, and Endodontics, said Cass Family Clinic is one of the University's most requested rotation sites among its dental students.

"The interns receive a foundation in dentistry at the University, but they really grow while on rotation, especially at Cass Family Clinic," said Tomaka. "They gain speed, a breadth of new experiences and cases, and an understanding of why serving the underserved is so important. The guidance received from preceptors, like Dr. Mick and Dr. Plank at Cass Family Clinic, is immeasurable, as they teach our interns how to be great dentists and compassionate human beings. Because of clinics like Cass Family Clinic, over 10 percent of our graduates choose public health as their career choice, which is more than double the national average. We are so grateful for our partnership with Cass Family Clinic and hope to remain in the family for years to come."

Maxine Taylor, a dental student at University of Michigan, recently completed her two-week clinical rotation at Cass Family Clinic and said: "The clinic is a warm, friendly environment that has welcomed my curiosity and my desire to grow my skill set, while also providing me a better understanding of what real-world dentistry can look like."

Niles-Buchanan NAACP chapter hosts annual banquet

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

MILTON TOWNSHIP — A historical organization aiming to help address the needs of the community gathered last weekend to celebrate progress.

The NAACP Niles-Buchanan Chapter hosted its annual banquet Saturday, Oct. 25 at Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St., Niles.

Founded in 1909, the organization is an interracial endeavor striving to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

The NAACP Niles chapter began in March 1942 and had been a voice for human equality by addressing local issues through advocacy and communication, as well as sought to educate members and the public on history and current concerns. The chapter was dissolved in 2018 due to low participation before being revived in 2024.

The banquet featured a formal dinner, awards and recognition and live music and entertainment. The keynote speaker was Yvonne White, NAACP President and National Board Member.

"As we go about our lives and we look at what's happening in the world, to be able to see an image like this of unity taking place in our community, I think, is outstanding," said Cam Herth of the Niles-Buchanan Chapter Education Committee.

Maxwell Harden | Leader Publications

The NAACP Niles-Buchanan Chapter hosted its annual banquet Oct. 25 at Milton Township Hall.

The theme for the NAACP Banquet 2025 is "One Nation, One Heart: Healing Through Unity."

"Together, we can overcome challenges, build bridges and create a future that honors the dreams of those that came before us," said Chapter President Beverly Woodson. "Let us unite and let us move forward stronger than ever. That is who we are, and we are going forward."

Woodson encouraged community members to join the NAACP chapter.

"We need each other more than ever at this time," she said. "We don't just want to have meetings. We have to come together and put your knowledge on the table and let us work it out together. Because without working together, we remain divided."

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Phyllis Zawisza

June 29, 1929 – October 6, 2025

Phyllis passed away peacefully on October 6, 2025, surrounded by her family. She is survived by her five children, Julie Zawisza, Kris Zawisza, Kathy (John) Hall, Steve (Jan) Zawisza, Philip (Cecile) Zawisza; six grandchildren, Andrew (Nancy) Zawisza, Maria (Tim) Samsa, Kara (Michael) Fields, Christian, Sophie and Alice Zawisza; four great-grandchildren, Leo, Ada, and Isla Fields and Zelda Field-Zawisza; and brother David Gring. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hilary; brother, Glenn (Mary Frances) Gring, Jr.; and sister, Miriam (David) Jackson.

Our beloved Phyllis was born on June 29, 1929, in LaPorte, Indiana, to Glenn M. and Pauline (Schultz) Gring and spent most of her youth in Michigan City, Indiana. She was shaped by hardship of the Great Depression, religious education, loss of her mother at age 15, and the loving support of her grandmother, who was a German immigrant, and aunt.

Guided by her faith, love of learning, and determination, she pursued her education and career while raising a family and remaining active in her church and community. After graduating high school, Phyllis left Michigan City to attend college at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and completed teacher training in Dowagiac, Michigan, in 1952. Early in her teaching career, she was introduced to her husband Hilary by a friend of his who worked with her at the A&P grocery. They married in 1955 and moved to Niles, Michigan, where they raised their family and resided for forty years.

Phyllis' children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were her "jewels" and the joy of her life. She lovingly nurtured them and their talents and interests in their youth and relished opportunities to share in and learn from their pursuits as adults. After retirement, she and Hilary moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan, to be near some of their grandchildren, and traveled extensively in the States and Europe to spend time with their children and grandchildren.

Phyllis was raised in the Lutheran church and attended school and services at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Michigan City in her youth. Inspired by the devotion of one of her early parochial school teachers, her Christian faith was a constant and sustaining influence throughout her life. She was a member of Holy Faith Church in Saline, Michigan, at the time of her death and an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Niles and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti, in the past. She contributed generously to her church community as a choir member, council member, Sunday School teacher, youth activities sponsor, bible study leader and volunteer at her church thrift store and food bank.

In her career pursuits, she sought challenge, variety, interaction with people and new experiences. Her 25-year career in elementary school teaching began in one- and two-room rural schools in Berrien County and ended at Ottawa Elementary School in Buchanan, Michigan. She was beloved by her students and known for her fun-loving personality and humor by fellow teachers. Together they would write and perform skits and song parodies at staff gatherings. After retiring from teaching, she shared her enthusiasm for reading by promoting and selling Perma-Bound books to elementary school librarians throughout northern Indiana.

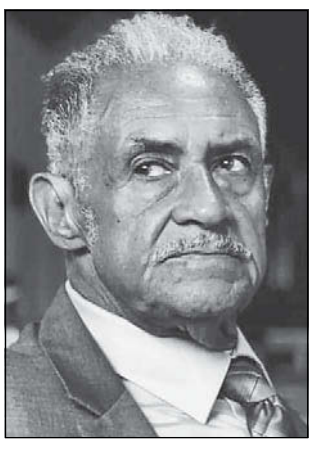
Phyllis had a zest for life and a passion for life-long learning and helping others, especially children. She had a keen, quirky sense of humor that often sparked unexpected laughter in others. She was an avid reader, who discovered the public library in third grade and was amazed that she could take home five books at a time. Visiting the library became a regular habit and reading opened her to a world of ideas and experiences. While raising five children and teaching, she completed her bachelor degree in education from Western Michigan University in 1966. She also took graduate school classes at Michigan State University and completed paralegal and bookkeeping courses. Though some thought of her as bookish, she loved the shores and sand dunes of Lake Michigan, where she played in her youth, enjoyed exercise and sports, and coached girls' basketball and softball teams.

She had a beautiful singing voice and a love of music, which she shared with and nurtured in her children. She sang solos in church from a young age and was selected to perform on the Morris B. Sachs Amateur Hour radio program in Chicago at the age of 19. She had a dramatic flair and her musical interests included show tunes and opera, though hymns learned in her youth were foundational to her musical sensibilities.

A celebration of Phyllis' life will be held on November 30, 2025 at 2:00 pm at Holy Faith Church, 6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Saline, MI, 48176. Donations in her memory may be made to Holy Faith Church or Buchanan Public Schools for Ottawa Elementary, Ottawa Elementary School, 109 Ottawa St., Buchanan, MI 49107.

William Goins Sr.

September 4, 1935 – October 20, 2025



William Wayne Goins, Sr., 90, died peacefully at home Monday, October 20, 2025, in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began on September 4, 1935, in Calvin Center, Michigan. He was born the only child to Wilbur Goins and Laurabelle Hawks Goins who preceded him in death.

William will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by and leaves to cherish his memory three daughters, Denise (Kenny) Grimes, Billie Jean (Randal) Burton of Cincinnati, Ohio, Veronica (Gary) Dunaway of Lexington, Kentucky; six sons, Daniel (Joann) Goins, David Goins of Cincinnati, Ohio; Damon (Sandra) Goins of Marietta Georgia, William Goins Jr., Wade (Jinette) Goins, Wyatt (Kim) Goins of Cincinnati, Ohio, one brother, Herman Goins of Cassopolis, Michigan. He also leaves a legacy of 25 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Saturday, November 1, 2025, in the Church of Cassopolis, 520 Pearl Street, Cassopolis, for visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life service with military honors at 12:00 noon.

William will be laid to rest beside his beloved wife Marion Goins of fifty years in a graveside service at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio on Monday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Mary Bybee

June 28, 1936 – October 27, 2025

Mary Elizabeth Bybee, age 89, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 27, 2025, at the Village of Heather Hills after a six-week illness. Her heartfelt wish throughout her illness was to return to her Heather Hills family – both residents and staff – whose care and kindness meant the world to her.

Born in Greenville, Michigan to Orval and Edith (Johnson) Gates, Mary graduated from Niles High School and spent most of her life in her hometown before moving to Middleville in 2018 to be closer to her daughter. She built a distinguished career as an executive secretary at Kawneer, Clark Equipment Co., and Ameriwood.

Mary found joy in gardening, golfing, and sharing meals with friends. In Middleville, she cherished her Ladies Bible Study at First Baptist Church and fellowship at Peace Church. At Heather Hills, she embraced every activity, especially bingo and her beloved outings to Dollar Tree.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Charles Bybee Sr.; her stepson, Charles Bybee Jr.; and granddaughter, Ashley Schaefer Stahl.

Mary leaves behind a loving family: children Susan (Ken) Foster of Middleville, MI, and Corky (Tracy) Miller of Anahuac, TX; stepchildren Pam (Greg) Much of Jackson Township, OH, and Debra (Eric) Schaefer of Lakeville, IN; former daughter-in-law Su Bybee of Mishawaka, IN; grandchildren Valerie (Chris) Filiberto, Mary Elaine (Bobby) Roush, Allyson Foster, David (Jillian) Foster, Kellan and Ian Miller, Brody (Savannah) Miller, Michelle (Ryan) Carey, Keith (Frances) Much, Angela (Brian) Garber, Lauren Bybee, Megan (Danny) Sandoval, and Sara Schaefer; and great-grandchildren Luca and Kingston Filiberto, Olive and Graham Roush, Soren Foster, Kyle, Carter and Cameron Carey, Lucas Much, Bradley, Jakob and Evann Garber.

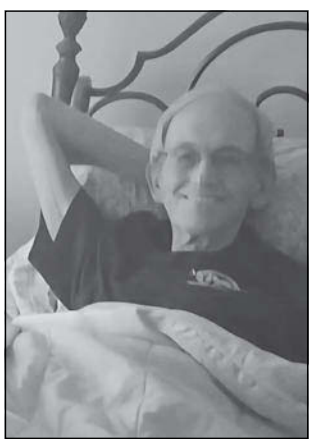
Mary's legacy of love will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Relatives and friends may meet with Mary's family on Thursday, October 30 from 5 PM to 8 PM at the Beeler Gores Funeral Home in Middleville, and again on Friday, October 31 from 10 AM to 11 AM at Hope Community Church in Niles where a funeral service will take place at 11 AM with a luncheon to follow. A graveside service will be held at Mission Hills Memorial Cemetery at 2 PM. Memorial contributions in Mary's name may be made to Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital.

Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Mary's family.

Steven Gordon

September 13, 1947 – October 28, 2025



Steven Rodger Gordon, 78, passed away on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 in Niles, Michigan surrounded by his loving family.

Steve was born on September 13, 1947 in Shelbyville, Illinois to the late Noble Gordon and Wanda (Moore) Gordon.

Left to cherish the memory of Steve is his loving wife of 60 years, Barbara (Lenz) Gordon; children, Shari (David) Ahlgrim, Thomas (Phil) Gordon, and S.H. Gordon; grandchildren, Chris Ahlgrim, Nick Ahlgrim, and Dylan Ahlgrim, and siblings, Peggy (Roscoe) Richards and Rebecca Gordon.

A passionate woodworker, Steven dedicated countless hours crafting beautiful pieces that will be cherished by those who were lucky enough to receive them. His talent was matched only by his love for the outdoors, often spending weekends fishing at his favorite spots and enjoying the tranquility that nature provided.

Above all, the true light of Steven's life was his grandchildren. He found immense joy in spending time with them, creating memories that will be treasured for generations to come.

Visitation for Steve will be on Monday, November 3, 2025 from 10:00am to 11:00am with a Funeral Service to be held at 11:00am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1340 Sycamore St. Niles, MI 49120. Burial will immediately follow at Silverbrook Cemetery, 1400 East Main St. Niles, MI 49120.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

Photos, condolences, and memories may be shared with Steve's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Jamie Rodriguez Sr.

March 26, 1944 – October 23, 2025

Jaime Rodriguez, Sr., age 81 of Three Rivers, Michigan passed away October 23, 2025 in Kalamazoo, MI. He was born March 26, 1944 in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

Jaime is survived by Wife: Balvina; Children: Steven, Jaime Jr. (Tiffany) Rodriguez, and his daughter; stepchildren, Oscar (Alyssa) Schultz, Javier, and Adilia Sequeira. His sister Norma (Frank) Ramos and his sister-in-law, Carmen Rodriguez. Six grandchildren, Steven Jr., Amanda, Jaden, Jax, Blaze Rodriguez, and Sofia Sequeira, and his beloved great-granddaughter, Kya Navae.

In accordance with his wishes cremation has taken place. The family will receive guests at Ray Funeral Services, 305 Rock River Ave., Three Rivers, MI 49093, Thursday, October 30, 2025 from 4:00-8:00 PM.

Please visit www.rayfuneralservices.com to gather and share Jaime's Memory.

Obituary policy: Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $15. Extended obituaries are priced based on character count. If the newspaper makes an error, the obituary will be reprinted at no charge. For more information, or to submit an obituary, email obits@leaderpub.com.

Death notices

Donald Richard Pierce, 68, passed away on Sunday, October 26, 2025, in St. Joseph, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Andrew Thomas Johnson, 56, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, October 25, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Timothy Dunkel III, 2 months, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, October 24, 2025. Services will be Thursday October 30, 2025, 12 p.m. at Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Mary Lucille Heimberger, 73, of South Bend, Indiana, passed away on Friday, September 24, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Thomas Cooper

February 16, 1959 – October 23, 2025

Thomas Lee Cooper, 66, of Cassopolis, Michigan, returned to his heavenly home, Thursday, October 23, 2025 and was greeted by the Lord and family that passed before him.

His life began February 16, 1959 in Pontiac, the youngest of five children born to Albert and Martha Cooper. He married Rebecca Smith August 7, 1991 in Miamisburg, Ohio.

Tom lived and raised their family in Ohio for over twenty years. He was an avid football fan, always cheering on the Wolverines every Saturday. Tom was a devoted Christian, leading his life with love and compassion. His unwavering belief in God was evident in every interaction. He was known for his love of people and never missed an opportunity to share a prayer with a friend or a stranger. He spoke to everyone he met like he had known them all his life. Tom built his own successful and respected company, Solid Rock Concrete, from the ground up. He took pride in teaching his sons and many others the trade; passing down skills, values, and strong work ethics. Tom wore many hats, literally and figuratively, he was rarely seen without one on. He lit up rooms with his loud booming voice and magnetic personality. Tom loved his classic car collection and would only drive them on sunny days. Tom's life was his family and took great pride in being a father and grandfather. He would joke that he had enough kids to make a football team. Tom always made sure his kids knew just how much he loved them and he was always there for him. Tom faced many health struggles, but remained strongly dedicated to God and his family. He taught his kids what it meant to be strong and to never give up. His face would light up when his grandkids would visit, he called daily to say "I love you," and never let his wife go a day without telling her multiple times how much he loved her.

Tom will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of thirty-four years, Rebecca Cooper of Cassopolis; three daughters, Jasmine Cooper of Kettering, Ohio, Kasie Blad of Cassopolis, Heaven Cooper of Cassopolis; five sons, Josh Cooper of Benton Harbor, Thomas Cooper of Edwardsburg, Gary Cooper of Cassopolis, CJ Powell of Cassopolis, Dustin Pascoe of Georgia; eleven grandchildren, Christina, Xavier, Dustin, Isaac, Bryce, Jayce, Elaina, Bentley, Theodore, Brady, and Cecilia; one great granddaughter; Ava; one brother, Lamar Cooper of Ohio; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Frankie Pascoe; one sister, Pam Cooper; and two brothers, Gary Cooper, and baby Al Cooper.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, November 1, 2025 from 12:00 Noon until the time of service at 1:00 p.m. in Apostolic Lighthouse Church; 30402 M-62, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Adam Saltsman

January 11, 1990 – October 24, 2025

Adam Lee Saltsman, aged 35, passed away unexpectedly but of natural causes on October 24, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Born on January 11, 1990, in South Bend, Indiana, to Mark and Kelly Saltsman, Adam grew up with a passion for the great outdoors and a love for sports that was only rivaled by his dedication to his family.

Adam's early years in Niles were marked by countless fishing trips and the budding of an unwavering support for Notre Dame and the Chicago Cubs. These interests would become lifelong passions, offering him both solace and excitement throughout his years. He carried the spirit of adventure with him always, a trait that those who knew him will fondly remember.

Above all, Adam was a devoted father to his daughter, Yara Saltsman. His love for his daughter was the beacon that guided every decision he made. He dedicated his life to her well-being, nurturing their dreams, and was their steadfast protector. The bond he shared with her was unbreakable and will continue to live on in her heart and memories.

Adam is survived by his loving parents, Mark and Kelly Saltsman; his adored daughter, Yara Saltsman, and his brother, Aaron (Alyssa) Saltsman. Each family member played a significant role in his life, providing him with support, laughter, and countless cherished moments.

Those who knew Adam would describe him as loving and adventurous. He approached life with a warm heart and open arms, always ready to lend a helping hand or share a moment of joy. His infectious smile and kind demeanor left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

As we say goodbye to Adam, we celebrate his life. He has left an indelible mark on the lives of his loved ones, and his legacy will be carried forward by the beautiful family he loved and the memories they created together.

In keeping with Adam's wishes cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Photos, condolences, and memories can be left for Adam's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Rest in peace, Adam Lee Saltsman, you will be missed.

Arrangements entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Obituaries continued on page A4

OBITUARIES

Ben Pompey

August 1, 1932 – October 25, 2025

Ben J. Pompey, 93, of Niles, Michigan, formerly of Dowagiac, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at his residence.

He was born on August 1, 1932, in Dowagiac, the son of the late Bennie C. Pompey Sr and Blanche M. (Brown) Pompey. Ben was a 1951 graduate of Dowagiac Central High School. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army serving 2 years from Dec. 1952 to Dec. 1954.

Surviving are six children, Bobby Joe (Barb) Shell, Victoria (Jamie) Anderson, Henry (Duel) Shell, Randel (Patricia) Pompey, Ben (Marybeth) Pompey, and Benita (Don) Lomax; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family.

Preceding him in death were his parents; wife, Ernestine (Haithcox) Pompey; son, Jerry Shell; grandson, Jason Pompey; six brothers, Jack Pompey, Dean Pompey, Wayne Pompey, Donald Pompey, Max Pompey and Richard Pompey; and lifelong friend, Jim Murray.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In support of ranked choice voting

Millions of eligible voters in our state don't vote, not because they are lazy or uninformed, but because they have become disillusioned and made the conscious choice to opt-out of participation.

Our representative democracy only works when we all believe it works based on our lived experiences. This is one reason that many disillusioned voters are turning to Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).

RCV is a simple change to the way we vote that we can adopt now. It levels the playing field for candidates with the best ideas, but not the biggest bank accounts, to compete and win.

We recognize that change can be hard, especially for those responsible for implementing it. But, we desperately need change in American politics. We cannot continue down the same path.

To paraphrase a common expression, the definition of insanity is using the same systems and methods and expecting different results.

RCV gives more meaningful choice to voters; it encourages more issue-focused campaigns and increased voter participation in elections.

The good news is that RCV is tried, tested, and proven. Fourteen million U.S. voters in 22 states already use RCV, including five Michigan municipalities.

It's also important to note that both "Red" and "Blue" states use RCV. Six southern states dominated by the GOP already use RCV for military and overseas voters. "Red" Alaska and "purple" Maine use it statewide, and "Red" Utah continues to expand its use.

The Cass County Democratic Party supports Ranked Choice Voting because we believe in a representative democracy in which more people vote. We invite our Republican counterparts to join us.

To learn more about Ranked Choice Voting, watch an explainer video, and read answers to frequently asked questions, visit RankMIVote.org.

Naomi Ludman, Chair
Cass County Democratic Party

How to submit a letter to the editor

Online: leaderpub.com/services/letters-to-the-editor-submission/
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Regular mail: Editorial Page, Leader Publications, 25 N. 2nd St., Niles MI 49120

- All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification.
- Letters must be 500 words or fewer. Letters relating to candidates and ballot issues in upcoming elections will be limited to 300 words.
- Letters must be of general public interest. All letters must be the original work of the authors. Form letters will not be accepted. In most cases, a writer whose letter is published must wait one month before having another letter published.
- Leader Publications reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel.
- All letters must be signed by individuals, not groups. Anonymous letters will not be published.

CANDIDATES

From page A1

How will you support the needs of first responders in the city?

Lyons: Emotional support is critically important, which begins with making sure they have the right equipment and training to do their job confidently. They also need good leadership. A big part of every elected official's duty is to make sure our first responders are well led, well equipped and well trained. A big THANK YOU! goes a long way too.

Bakeman: If elected, I plan on doing a ride along with our local police department and riding along with our fire department. I want our first responders to know that they are the first line for Dowagiac and as Mayor our community will have their back.

How well is the community meeting the needs of seniors, and what more needs to be done?

Lyons: Forest Glen and The Timbers are both excellent facilities. The Council On Aging provides many opportunities, including exercise and dining. The C.O.A. needs to expand. The City is working with them to provide the necessary land. Seniors also need more housing options tailored to their special needs.

Bakeman: Dowagiac benefits significantly from the Cass County Council on Aging and its local satellite, Front St. Crossing, which provides essential services like meals, transportation assistance and social programming. Local private care providers also offer in-home support. We also have the United Way "Rake a Difference" coming up and the high school's Senior Citizen luncheon. Let's get the word out to Seniors and help advertise some of these great services.

If someone came to you with a proposal to build a new piece of public infrastructure in the city (road, bridge, etc.), how would you evaluate whether or not that project was worth implementing?

Lyons: We would ask: What is the problem you're trying to solve? Is this the best possible solution? Where will the money come from? Could the project be built for less money if there were design or spec changes? Is the land available? How long will the project take to complete? Is it time sensitive?

Bakeman: First, any infrastructure proposal must address a clear safety concern or make sure that the project would benefit the community. Next, we assess the true need and conduct a cost benefit analysis for our budget. We would then want to make sure that the project aligned with our Master Plan and the project had demonstrated public support.

If you received a $1 million grant to use for the city any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

Lyons: Dowagiac's roads always need more work than we can afford. The rest of our infrastructure is in pretty good shape except sidewalks, which are a problem with no good solution. We're looking carefully at sidewalks but that's going to be a long term project. Right now $1,000,000 would make a meaningful impact on our roads.

Bakeman: To attract families, Dowagiac needs year-round destinations. I propose using the pledged $1 million to build a Community Activity Center – a hub for recreation, fitness, and connection. Like Niles's NODE, Cassopolis' beach or Edwardsburg's Field House, this project would foster community pride and draw visitors to Dowagiac.

How well is our community meeting the needs of low-income residents, and what more, if anything, needs to be done?

Lyons: Low income residents have three barriers to employment: nutrition, housing and transportation. There are agencies that provide food such as Action Ministries; Dowagiac's recent housing study reported that we have adequate low income housing; Dial-A-Ride is getting ready to roll-out new buses with greatly expanded areas and hours of service. All of which should help lower those barriers.

Bakeman: We all seek opportunities and demand our tax dollars are spent properly. My community service, especially with Dowagiac Connected, focuses on creating low-cost life experiences for all. As your mayor, I would work hard to attract and secure opportunities that advance our whole community, regardless of your financial standing.

How will you work to increase job opportunities for your constituents?

Lyons: The best way to increase jobs is to make Dowagiac a business friendly city. As a successful businessman, I have worked hard to minimize red tape and bureaucratic interference. Dowagiac routinely gets complemented by people who have worked with the city staff on their projects or businesses.

Bakeman: Many Dowagiac families drive 30+ minutes for work. My plan is a business initiative to advertise our strong local workforce and aggressively seek job growth right here. We have hard-working residents ready to contribute. We must promote them and attract employers, because "If you are not trying, you are dying."

How will you work with local small businesses to support their growth?

Lyons: After providing a business friendly atmosphere, it's then necessary to work with each business to understand its unique needs and challenges. Once that's accomplished, then City services or support can be used when appropriate. Myself, the city manager and the assistant city manager are the ones most involved in those direct contacts.

Bakeman: As a small business owner, I understand the first hand challenges local small businesses face. My experience will guide policies that prioritize our entrepreneurs. Promoting shopping locally must be our community's first thought. Supporting our local small businesses strengthens our tax base, creates jobs, and keeps Dowagiac vibrant.

What are your ideas to make every part of our community feel they are fairly and adequately represented?

Lyons: We work hard to assure that city investments are spread evenly among the three wards. It's also understood that the six council members (two from each ward) are the primary contacts with the residents of each ward, and that the city staff is responsible for responding to and supporting each council member as they work with their residents.

Bakeman: My idea is to expand outreach beyond City Hall meetings. Starting Neighborhood Listening Sessions across different wards. Also, visiting local churches and volunteer organizations. We must also utilize digital and traditional media to ensure accessible communication, building the trust necessary for fair and adequate representation.

Maintaining and improving neighborhoods requires responsive and efficient community services. What changes, if any, do you think are needed for citizens to be proud of every neighborhood?

Lyons: The biggest challenges to every neighborhood is blight, streets and sidewalks. Dowagiac has an exterior property maintenance ordinance, which has helped greatly. The State's new budget is going to put a lot more money into roads. We recently did a study of our sidewalks. We have over 34 miles of sidewalks for which we have a multi year improvement plan.

Bakeman: We need a proactive sidewalk initiative where the City and homeowners have a partnership and improve our path to getting around the city. We also need to address some of the existing parks and what it is that they need. We have to take care of what we have while also looking to make our parks safe and clean.

What are your plans to deal with the shortage of affordable housing in the city?

Lyons: We have a program which provides free utility hookups for new homes, but our biggest challenge is available land. We have recently completed an inventory of City-owned land that could be made available for development. We're also working with the State on grant opportunities to offer incentives to developers.

Bakeman: We must continue to increase our housing stock and improve existing homes. My plan is to keep targeting state grants like CHILL, RAP, and MSHDA Mod that have been used recently. Our past success proves that the hard work at City Hall, combined with these resources, is the key to providing quality, affordable housing for every Dowagiac resident.

How will you work to address blight in the community?

Lyons: We have recently re-imagined our blight enforcement process to include the police. We will still use our current inspection process to identify and fix blighted properties when possible. When that doesn't work, the police will be responsible for gathering the evidence and preparing the case for trial. They're experts at this and early results have shown great promise.

Bakeman: Blight is a major concern, and we need to respond with action. I propose getting tougher on fines for ordinance violations and significantly increasing enforcement of our existing codes. This strategy will aggressively address property deterioration, clean up our neighborhoods, and show residents we are serious about improving our community standards.

What forums or platforms will you utilize to foster a dialogue between the citizens and city officials?

Lyons: The City recently hired a person to develop and manage that process using modern state-of-the-art hardware and software to dramatically improve the communication between citizens and City officials. That person is also going to provide regular posts that will help citizens better understand what is happening in and around the city and why.

Bakeman: My strength is in transparent communication. I have a strong relationship with our local media and understand social media's power. This allows me to ensure news is accurately reported and to offer a firsthand account of what I see, hear and feel. As mayor, Dowagiac will always know what is happening.

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SMC choirs team up with Portage Northern

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College's fall choir concert, "Songs of the Soul," featured a collaboration with Portage Northern High School for the 50th anniversary of "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald."

"It's wonderful to have Chelsea Whiteoak conducting us on this piece by one of my favorite artists, Gordon Lightfoot," said SMC Director of Choral Activities David Carew. "Chelsea is a Dowagiac high school graduate. I recruited her at the McDonald's drive-through to come to SMC. This is her fifth year at Portage Northern."

SMC, directed by Carew, opened the Oct. 24 program with a selection by German composer Felix Mendelssohn performed by Chorllennium.

SMC's Choral Scholars performed two pieces in Latin, including a motet where multiple independent melodic lines are sung simultaneously.

Texts come from the monks of ancient Gaul, the region of Western Europe that is modern-day France.

Dowagiac graduate Chelsea Whiteoak performs at Southwestern Michigan College's fall choir concert, "Songs of the Soul."

A vocal solo featured sophomore Lauren Lovell of Watervliet.

The women from Chorllennium and SMC Collegiate Choir combined to present "Psalm 100" by Rene Clausen, longtime music professor and conductor of The Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minn., accompanied by Christine Seitz on keyboard.

Carew next spotlighted an arrangement of "Swing Low" by Curtis Gulledge Sr., "our clinician last summer and a good friend and colleague and alumnus of Western (Michigan University). He changed many lives with his contagious joy and approach to making music and finding your own voice. An infectious bass line runs through it. Portage Northern learned it today, so I'm really proud of the work they did. Then we'll jump into the Chichester songs."

"Songs of the Soul" also featured Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms.

Three movements convey a meaning of conflict and resolution, ultimately advocating for peace and unity through the blending of Jewish and Christian musical traditions.

The work is structured around excerpts from the biblical Psalms, with the first movement depicting joyful worship, the second a dramatic clash between the faithful and the faithless and the third a return to humility and quiet joy, ending with a unified prayer for peace.

Saturday night SMC traveled to Kalamazoo to repeat the performance with the Huskies at First Congregational Church.

Photos provided

Southwestern Michigan College's fall choir concert, "Songs of the Soul," featured a collaboration with Portage Northern High School for the 50th anniversary of "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald."

10 arrested in domestic violence warrant sweep

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERRIEN COUNTY — The Berrien County Sheriff's Office conducted a countywide warrant sweep this week targeting individuals wanted for domestic violence related offenses.

The coordinated effort resulted in 10 arrests – 5 felony, and 5 misdemeanor – with all suspects being lodged at the Berrien County Jail pending court appearances. In total, Deputies made nearly 50 attempts-to-locate subjects on outstanding domestic violence warrants.

This warrant sweep was part of a special enforcement initiative brought to the Sheriff's Office as an idea by one of its Deputies and launched by Sheriff Heit in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The operation involved deputies from the Sheriff's Office enforcement division, who worked diligently to locate and apprehend individuals with outstanding warrants for domestic violence related crimes.

"Domestic violence has no place in our community," said Sheriff Heit. "These warrant sweeps send a clear message: our office is committed to protecting victims and holding offenders accountable. We will continue to use every resource available to ensure that justice is served and that survivors of domestic abuse know they are not alone."

The Sheriff's Office emphasized that these enforcement actions are part of an ongoing effort to address domestic violence year-round, not just during awareness month. Deputies also continue to partner with victim advocacy groups and community organizations to connect survivors with resources and support services.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Office remains dedicated to enforcing the law, promoting public safety and supporting victims of domestic violence through both enforcement and education. For more information or to access domestic violence resources, contact the Berrien County Sheriff's Office at (269) 983-7141 or visit www.bcsheriff.org

Vandalia man killed in Porter Township crash

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

PORTER TOWNSHIP — A 42-year-old Vandalia man was killed in a crash Monday evening in Porter Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies were called to a personal injury crash at approximately 6:02 p.m. Monday at the intersection of U.S. 12 and M-217. The investigation determined that James Hettmansperger, 42, of Vandalia, was driving a Jeep Liberty eastbound on U.S. 12 when he lost control and crossed the centerline. The Jeep first struck the rear end of a GMC Sierra pickup and trailer driven by Brett White, 44, of Elkhart, Ind., who was traveling westbound. Hettmansperger's Jeep then collided with the front of the trailer before leaving the roadway and coming to rest alongside a utility pole.

Despite life-saving measures by EMS and Fire personnel, Hettmansperger was pronounced dead at the scene due to injuries sustained in the crash. Seatbelts were worn on both subjects. Assisting in this crash was SEPSA Ambulance and SEPSA Fire Department.

Photo provided

A 42-year-old Vandalia man was killed in a crash Monday evening in Porter Township.

3 injured in multi-vehicle Edwardsburg crash

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — Three drivers were injured Thursday after a multi-vehicle crash involving a school bus on Thursday morning, according to the Ontwa Township Edwardsburg Police Department.

Officers responded to the accident at the intersection of M-62 and May Street at 7:08 a.m. Thursday.

The initial investigation determined that a 17-year-old from Elkhart, Ind., was traveling westbound and stopped but failed to yield the right-of-way to a southbound Edwardsburg school bus. The bus was driven by Annita Callegea, 52, of Edwardsburg. As the 17-year-old's vehicle veered off the bus, it was then struck by a northbound vehicle driven by Barbara Courchmene, 45, of Elkhart, Ind. The school bus ultimately ended up on its side.

All three drivers were treated on the scene by Edwardsburg Ambulance Service and SMCAS, but all refused transport. No students were on the bus at the time of the accident. The 17-year-old was cited for the hazardous action.

The Ontwa Township Edwardsburg Police Department was assisted by the Edwardsburg Fire Department, the Cass County Sheriff's Office, and the Michigan State Police.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact the OTEPD at (269) 663-8444.

Niles man gets prison time for assault

By DEBRA HAIGHT
For Leader Publications

SCHRIMSHER

ENGLISH

FISETTE

WINCHESTER

CASSOPOLIS — A Niles man is going to prison after assaulting and severely injuring another man in February. He was one of five people sentenced Friday, Oct. 24 in Cass County Circuit Court.

Greggery Jason Williams, 35, of Niles, pleaded no contest to assault with intent do great bodily harm less than murder and was sentenced to 29 months to 10 years in prison. He has credit for 66 days served and must pay $3,504.14 in fines, costs and restitution.

WILLIAMS

He can serve his sentence in the Sentence Alternative Incarceration boot camp program if he qualifies which could reduce the length of his sentence.

The incident Feb. 22 at a home in Milton Township. Williams and his girlfriend, Emily Thar, went to the home of Gregry Hammond, the father of Thar's young daughter. Hammond was assaulted and received serious injuries. Thar is facing a jury trial next month on a home invasion charge related to the incident.

Cass County Assistant Prosecutor Jason Ronning noted that a shovel was found near Hammond who said he believed he was hit wit a pipe or a shovel. Williams has denied hitting Hammond with anything but his fist.

"I'm not sure if he (Williams) fully understands what this has meant to the victim," Ronning said. "He's likely to be struggling for the rest of his life with the damage to his brain. He didn't know if he was going to get out the hospital. He struggles to talk."

Ronning said Hammond and his family agreed to the possibility of a boot camp sentence. "We talked about boot camp, they showed a grace and forgiveness I wouldn't have," he said. "They didn't want him to be away from his own children."

Defense attorney Peter Johnson also thanked the victim and his family for allowing for the boot camp sentence to go forward. For his part, Williams apologized and said he would take back what he did if he could.

"You say it was just a punch but it's more plausible that he was hit with a pipe or a shovel," Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman told Williams. "If it was a punch and carried that much force, you should be careful in the future."

"You're 35 years old and you're lucky you're not here for murder," the judge added. "Actions speak louder than words and you are violent … I hope you will think long and hard about your actions and raise your children that violence never makes things better."

A Cassopolis man is going back to prison after being sentenced for fleeing and eluding police and resisting and obstructing police in a March incident near Dowagiac.

William Schrimsher II, 43, of Cassopolis, pleaded guilty to third-degree flee - ing police and resisting and obstructing police-both as a habitual offender and was sentenced to concurrent terms of three to 7.5 years and two to three years in prison. He has credit for 216 days served and must pay $2,116 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred March 23 in Pokagon Township. Police received a report to be on the lookout for Schrimsher over alleged threats to police and were able to locate him on Pokagon Highway. He fled police and then resisted them when he was caught. He also faces charges in Berrien County from around the time of this incident.

"With all the things you did, did you honestly think you were going to get away or make things better?" Judge Herman asked. "When you flee from police and fight with police, you're just making things worse. If you had stopped and cooperated, you wouldn't be sitting here, you would be dealing with your case in Berrien County."

Three other area residents were sentenced to probation.

Jordan Brice English, 22, of Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for eight days already served and $2,328 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred July 9 in Dowagiac.

Anne Kristine Fisette, 36, of Edwardsburg, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine as a habitual offender and was sentenced to three years probation, credit for 99 days already served and $2,628 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred June 29 in Edwardsburg. She also had her probation continued and extended from an earlier delivery/manufacture of meth conviction.

John Richard Winchester, 54, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for one day served and $1,918 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred May 21, 2024 in Marcellus.

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CASSOPOLIS

Village council combines meetings, OKs union contract

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
For Leader Publications

CASSOPOLIS — The Cassopolis Village council combined their regular monthly meeting and their monthly workshop meeting in October to accommodate the holiday schedule and met for both on Monday, Oct. 27.

During the meeting, Trustee Kimberle Danzy-Yeager expressed concern over the high water levels in the streets during recent rains. According to Department of Public Works Superintendent Ben Anderson, the rain came too quickly and heavily for the system to accommodate.

Anderson also spoke during public comment regarding the recent newspaper article regarding Village employee Mohammed Hasen. The front page story explained the plight of Hasen, a Sudanese refugee with legal status in the United States who is struggling to bring the rest of his family to the country. Though Hasen followed requirements for the application process for his wife and children, rule changes at the federal level have stalled the process.

Mohammed also addressed the council, thanking them for a recent resolution supporting the reunification of his family. Ruth Andrews, who assisted in sponsoring Hasen coming to the US, also thanked the council.

Andrews also thanked village staff member Alexis O'Flynn, who oversees Community Development, for their assistance in funding a new roof through grants from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

The council approved a Cassopolis Police Department Union Contract, agreeing to terms presented by the union in February. In a letter to the Cassopolis Village Police Officers Association, Village Manager Emilie LaGrow noted frustration with conduct during the negotiation process, but expressed gratitude to and support of police officers.

"They continue to have the full support of the Village, and we are proud to have each of them as a part of our team," said LaGrow in the letter.

Christmas in Cassopolis was announced for Saturday, December 6th, with additional information to be announced at cassopolismainstreet.com/christmas-in-cassopolis.

The Stone Lake Improvement Board meetings at 3pm on Thursday, November 6th. The next regular Village Council Meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, with the next workshop meeting combined with a regular meeting taking place at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24. The Cassopolis Area Utilities Authority will meet at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17.

Photo provided
Webb Miller in India in 1930 covering the early stages of Gandhi's struggle for Indian independence.

Lecture series concludes Nov. 5 with 'World Wide Webb Miller'

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac Area History Museum Fall Lecture Series concludes at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5 with 'World Wide Webb Miller.'

Cass County native Webb Miller was hired by the United Press in 1915 and for the next 25 years, he covered every major event happening in Europe, Africa and Asia.

"You can follow World History from 1915-1940 by following Webb Miller's footsteps," said Museum Director Steve Arseneau.

The program is free for museum members and $5 for non-members. Seating is limited to 100 patrons and is on a first-come basis. For those unable to attend, the event will be livestreamed on Facebook Live and will be on the museum's FB page for 30 days.

Photos provided
City and county officials, community members and volunteers were on hand to celebrate the debut of Dowagiac Dial-A-Ride Transit's new vehicle fleet.

DART

From page A1

role in the fleet's improvements as well as coming up with the idea for the Stuff-A-Bus drive.

"He did a tremendous amount of design, engineering and fabrication work to get this together," he said. "He has done a tremendous job with this."

"It's nice to be able to see the community's reaction to the buses and stuff and to let the people in the community see it and get a feel for it and see the new upgrades that we've done for the community," Anderson added.

Bundle presented city officials with a plaque commemorating Dowagiac DART's 50th anniversary.

"It's been 50 years, and that's a commitment this community made to itself: to provide transportation for those least able to have it, and the ability to get around – to go to the doctors, go shopping, do all those things that need to be done in the daily course of your life," said Mayor Don Lyons. "It's so much easier when you've got transportation, and this is transportation at a level we've never had before. But that's not just the end of 50 years, it's the beginning of a new era. It's an era of technology. We're looking at how to reorganize transportation in Dowagiac so it is available more hours of the day, more square miles. How can we serve the entire county from Dowagiac?

"I think all of those things are very much in play right now and are something you can look forward to. I couldn't be happier."

Stuff-A-Bus

Community members did their part to combat food insecurity by supporting the Stuff-A-Bus event. The public was encouraged to contribute non-perishable grocery, health, hygiene, or household items to ideally stuff the buses with donations for ACTION Ministries' pantry.

According to ACTION Ministries, 11 shopping carts-worth of food was donated to the pantry.

"I think that is a testament to the community and their concern for the community," said City Manager Kevin Anderson.

The organization has seen a significant spike in demand and may soon have to limit assistance due to the uncertainty surrounding SNAP benefits in the state of Michigan. According to Board President Becky Peters, the number of households served on a typical Saturday jumped from the high 50s to 88 this past Saturday. This spike is unusual, resembling the volume typically seen during the end-of-year Christmas or Thanksgiving holiday period. Peters expressed concern for children and seniors, noting that the spike may be due to people being fearful that they cannot feed their kids.

Readers can support ACTION Ministries by sending a check in the mail, or they can donate via the pantry's PayPal account. The organization is also working on setting up payment options like Venmo or Zelle and accepts cash donations.

Donations can be dropped off at the pantry, 301 Main St., between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturdays, when staff is regularly present. While the most effective way to help is through a monetary donation, the pantry also encourages people to clean out their cabinets and drop off non-expired, unopened food items on Saturday mornings.

For more information, visit actiondowagiac.com.

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Sports

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Brandywine closes season with Senior Night victory

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — The Brandywine football team closed the 2025 season in winning fashion last week.

The Bobcats defeated visiting Mount Clemens 50-8 in a convincing Senior Night win to finish the season with a 2-7 record. Head coach Jeff Miller liked what he saw from his players throughout the final week of practice.

"Our kids were locked in, we had a great opportunity pregame to hear from some of the members of the 1995 Undefeated Brandywine Football Team, and then they went out and did what we asked them to do," he said. "The players were communicating with each other, aligning to be successful on defense, played very hard, executed with the most precision we have had all season, and they had an air of confidence about them."

Following an 0-5 start that saw the Bobcats get outscored 280-63, the team went 2-2 over its last four games, including wins over Benton Harbor and Mount Clemens. Miller highlighted Berrien Springs week as a turning point for his team. The Bobcats jumped out to a 12-0 lead against the Shamrocks before falling 47-26.

"We had a great week of preparation for Berrien Springs and the kids finally started to turn the corner as far as seeing how that translates to game performance," he said.

See **BRANDYWINE**, page B1

Nick Shelton / For Leader Publications

The Brandywine football team takes the field against Mount Clemens Friday, Oct. 24.

'It feels tremendous'

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

The Niles football team poses with its Wolverine Conference banner.

Niles edges Edwardsburg 21-12 for undefeated season, conference title

By BOB OPPENHEIM
For Leader Publications

EDWARDSBURG — Edwardsburg's football team outplayed No. 4 (Division 3) Niles over the final three quarters of Friday's Wolverine Conference game.

But victory wasn't claimed by the Eddies, who fell to the Vikings, 21-12. The win gives Niles its third-straight conference title and clinches the program's first undefeated regular season since 1979.

"It feels great," said Niles senior running back Elijah Norris. "It feels tremendous. It was the plan all along from the beginning of the season to go 9-0 and get that three-peat conference championship. We worked hard all throughout the season, and [head coach Scot Shaw] told us that was the goal from the beginning. That was our motivation, and we used that, came into each game and worked our butts off every single time."

Niles jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter after outgaining Edwardsburg 136-27.

The Vikings also had six first downs compared to only one for the Eddies in the opening quarter.

The complete reversal took place the rest of the game, as Edwardsburg outgained Niles, 144 yards to 42, and had 11 first downs compared to only one for the Vikings.

"We didn't know what our team was all about, necessarily, and it's week nine" said Edwardsburg coach Dan Purlee, whose team ends the regular season 6-3 overall and 4-3 in the league.

"Our team showed us tonight. They played with a lot of heart and a lot of pride. We came off a tough loss last week (38-35 to Vicksburg), so you never know what you're going to get. But our kids came ready to play and showed a lot of toughness. I'm proud of them for that."

Entering Friday's contest, the defending state runner-up (Division 4) Vikings had dominated their opponents this season and outscored them, 320-86.

Niles seemed on its way to another lopsided win on Friday after getting a one-yard touchdown run from Brandon Walsh and nine-yard scoring run form Alex Anderson in the first quarter.

Jeff Douglas / For Leader Publications

The Niles football team clashed with rival Edwardsburg at Leo Hoffman Field.

In the second quarter, the Eddies' best defense was their offense, as Edwardsburg had the ball for 11:05.

From the 1:14 mark of the first quarter to the 2:47 mark of the second, the Eddies drove the ball 66 yards on 17 plays.

The drive stalled at Niles' 24, as Cameron Hayden gained only a yard on a 4th-and-5.

But the Eddies would quickly get the ball back, after Hayden picked off a pass thrown by Vikings freshman quarterback William Turnbull. Hayden got the interception at Niles' 44 and returned it 16 yards.

Eight plays later, Edwardsburg Ryland Savoie scored on a one-yard plunge to cut Niles' lead to 14-6 with :01 left before halftime. The extra-point was missed.

See **PERFECT**, page B1

Buchanan volleyball earns fifth consecutive league title

By MAXWELL HARDEN
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BUCHANAN — The Buchanan Bucks volleyball team won its fifth straight Lakeland Conference title after finishing the final conference event 2-1 on Saturday.

The Bucks secured wins against Brandywine (25-21, 25-21) and fell to Dowagiac (17-25, 21-25) before rebounding to defeat Berrien Springs (25-23, 25-13) to earn the title.

Sydney Denison and Gabby Carson led the team with 19 kills each, while Kenzie Boller contributed 10 kills. Morgan Weldy directed the offense with 62 assists.

On defense, Finley Kehoe led the team with 24 digs, Ella Fanslow had 17 digs and Emily Holt added 14 digs. Denison, Kehoe, Legault, Weldy, and Fanslow all contributed to the serving game, with Denison and Kehoe each recording three aces.

The Chieftains went 3-0 on the day with wins of Buchanan, Berrien Springs (19-25, 25-15, 25-19) and Brandywine (25-23, 26-24) to improve to 4-2 in conference play and 21-22-4 overall.

Dowagiac's offense was paced by Marlie Carpenter who led the team with 23 kills and added three assists. Tessa Deering had 14 kills and one assist while Brianna Campbell had 12 kills. Riley Todd had 10 kills and one assist, Zabrina Shivers had six kills, Emily Henry had five kills and Ava Nate contributed

See **TITLE**, page B1

Cassopolis football aims to be bigger, stronger next season

By SCOTT HASSINGER
For Leader Publications

CASSOPOLIS — The Cassopolis Rangers football program enters the offseason with plenty of optimism and two more victories than it achieved a year ago when Jeremiah Lee and his coaching staff put the equipment away.

Just six games into its 2024 schedule, injuries forced Cassopolis to cancel its remaining three varsity games. The Rangers, a team dominated by underclassmen that season, finished out the fall playing three junior varsity contests.

After compiling just one win the previous campaign, Cassopolis tripled its win total and finished 3-6 in the 2025 season, including a thrilling 28-21 road win in Week 9 at Vermontville-Maple Valley in the Southwest 10/Big 8 Crossover Game.

The Rangers' other two wins this season came against Comstock 41-12 and by 2-0 forfeit over Sand Creek. Cassopolis dropped a heartbreaking 29-28 decision at Hartford, a game which Lee believes might've helped the Rangers qualify for the Division 7 playoffs had Cassopolis won.

"We let that Hartford game slip away from us," Lee admitted.

The main chore during the offseason for Cassopolis will be to become bigger and stronger allowing the Rangers to be more physical on the offensive and defensive line.

Cassopolis was outscored 327-172 by opponents this season, but the Rangers were never once shutout. Five of the Rangers' losses this season were to teams that have qualified for the state playoffs. Those include Decatur, Centreville, Bronson, White Pigeon and Galesburg-Augusta.

The Rangers started three sophomores and one freshmen on the offensive line, including Connor Turnbo, Colt Bement, Mason Boyer and Ethan Light.

Cassopolis' youth and inexperience along the offensive line were key factors as the Rangers were often one-dimensional on offense. Junior quarterback Lucas Williams was a bright spot for the Rangers' offense with over 2,000 combined yards passing and running and 29 TDs.

"We weren't able to run the ball as much as we wanted at times. Lucas did a real nice job of carrying us offensively, but you can't be as one-dimensional like we were most of the time," Lee said.

Cassopolis showed its explosiveness at times, however, with Williams tossing several big TD passes to the brother receiving duo of senior Jaylin Pratt and sophomore Jamiere Pratt.

Despite giving up the point total that the Rangers did, Lee felt that his squad made the most progress this Fall on the defensive side of the football.

"Our defense took a huge leap in terms of competing hard, finishing plays and tackling opponents," Lee said.

Cassopolis was led on the defensive side of the ball by sophomore defensive end Tyson West, along with the junior linebacker duo of Lane Leach and Elijah Wagoner.

Scott Hassinger / For Leader Publications

Quarterback Lucas Williams had more than 2,000 combined total yards of offense and 29 touchdowns this season.

Wagoner finished the season as Cassopolis' leading tackler with 69, while Leach had 62 tackles.

The Rangers, who had just four seniors on its 30-man roster, have a lot to look forward to. Lee will return 10 of his 11 starters on both offense and defense.

"We stressed to the kids after the Maple Valley game how important it is to be in the weight room and at the summer conditioning sessions. This past summer we had good attendance but it can always be better. We have to get bigger and stronger," Lee said.

Lee was elated with how the Rangers finished the season showing a lot of grit in attaining a win on the road at Vermontville-Maple Valley.

"It was a great defensive game. The kids were really dialed in and excited to play," Lee said.

Buchanan earns 46-6 Senior Night win over Muskegon Catholic

By MAXWELL HARDEN
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BUCHANAN — The Buchanan football team ended the regular season in winning fashion last weekend. The Bucks closed their regular season with a dominant 46-6 Senior Night victory over Muskegon Catholic Central and will begin postseason play with a 6-3 record.

Buchanan turned in a strong performance in all phases of the game, outgaining Muskegon Catholic Central in total yards 306-91. The Bucks' rushing attack earned 261 yards while the defense held the Crusaders to just 91 net rushing yards and zero passing yards.

Max Cornelius led the rushing attack with 131 yards and one touchdown on 13 carries and Ryan Hickok rushed for 60 yards and one touchdown on seven carries while Owen Thompson scored on a 12-yard run. Quarterback Cy Carlin completed 4 of 6 passes for 45 yards and threw one touchdown. Brody Reed was the leading receiver, catching two passes for 28 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown pass from Carlin.

The Bucks scored two non-offensive touchdowns in the first half, with JonTel Williams-Bruton returning a kickoff 65 yards for a touchdown and Brody Reed returning a punt 72 yards for a touchdown.

Reed led the defense with four tackles for loss and Lucas Zeiger added one sack. Buchanan faced Napoleon on the road Friday in the opening round of the Division 6 playoffs. Visit leaderpub.com for a recap of the game.

Edwardsburg volleyball earns undefeated conference season

By MAXWELL HARDEN
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EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg volleyball team finished the regular season undefeated in Wolverine Conference play after a Senior Night sweep of Niles on Friday.

The set scores were 25-10, 25-20, and 25-12. The victory brings the Eddies' overall season record to 28-8 and their conference record to a perfect 7-0.

Sarah Pippin led the Eddies' with a match-high 20 kills and added five digs, one block, and four aces. Mya Eberlein contributed 10 kills, three digs, and one block while Ella Laskowski added nine kills and eight digs.

(Photo provided)

The Edwardsburg volleyball team earned an undefeated Wolverine Conference record after defeating Niles Friday, Oct. 24.

The offense was orchestrated by Rylie Rosenkrantz, who finished with 40 assists and added two kills and two blocks. Defensively, Sophie Kuntz recorded six digs and Courtney Zache added four kills and one block.

SMC volleyball gets sweep of Glen Oaks

By MAXWELL HARDEN
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DOWAGIAC — The Southwestern Michigan College volleyball team closed its regular season with a sweep over Glen Oaks on Sophomore Night, winning 25-13, 25-10, 25-16.

"We treated tonight and every night like it is the conference championship," shared Head Coach Jenny Nate. "That is how we have played the entire season. We respect every opponent, stay focused on our same goals, and control the match – both the energy and the tempo. We studied film, and every attacker knew where to put the ball when they were set. Every sophomore got in the match tonight, and we are grateful for their leadership and dedication...but we are not finished yet."

Amie Schutz had 17 kills, 11 points and three aces and Lily Kowalik finished with seven kills and five blocks while Ryli Burks and Talan Hiemstra each added six kills. Meah Evans tallied 18 assists and Sophia Bachman had11 assists. Evans added 11 points and two aces.

The defense was anchored by Carlie Ritchie with 14 digs and Schutz with nine digs while Maggie Arney and Hiemstra both added three blocks each.

The Roadrunners finished conference play 11-1 and hold an overall record of 26-6.

Moore named semifinalist for Jim Thorpe Award

COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Sophomore cornerback Leonard Moore has been named a semifinalist for the 2025 Paycom Jim Thorpe Award, which honors college football's top defensive back.

Moore has made a statement thus far in the 2025 season, earning seven midseason first-team All-America honors, including by The Associated Press, The Sporting News, CBS Sports, The Athletic, Sports Illustrated, Pro Football Focus and Athlon Sports. He has also been named a quarterfinalist for the Lott IMPACT Trophy, honoring the nation's top defensive player based on play and character.

In just five games played this season, Moore has posted three interceptions. His clip of 0.60 interceptions per game ranks second among all Power 4 players, and fourth among all FBS players. He is tied for the lead among all Power 4 players in Pro Football Focus coverage grade (89.7).

Moore, in addition to his three interceptions this season, has posted five passes defended, 15 tackles, two pass breakups and a forced fumble in just five games played. With Moore's help, Notre Dame ranks third in the nation in total interceptions (13) and sixth in the country in turnover margin (1.14).

Two of Moore's interceptions came in the same game vs. Boise State, a career-best performance. For his performance that week, he was named the Walter Camp FBS Defensive Player of the Week and the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Defensive Back of the Week. He became the first Notre Dame player to have multiple interceptions in the same game since 2023 (Xavier Watts).

The 2024 FWAA Freshman Defensive Player of the Year, Moore entered the 2025 season with several accolades, as he was named to the Preseason All-America First Team lists by Walter Camp, The Sporting News, the Associated Press, The Athletic, ESPN, CBS Sports, Athlon Sports and Phil Steele. He has also been named to patch lists for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, Paycom Jim Thorpe Award, Chuck Bednarik Award and Lott IMPACT Trophy.

PERFECT

From page B2

"That was ideal," Purlee said about his team's play in the second quarter. "You go up against a team like this you're going to have to have some things go your way. Obviously, we pride ourselves in trying to control the football."

The second half was a defensive struggle, as the two teams combined for only 104 yards and five first downs.

Another Turnbull interception from Hayden gave Edwardsburg the ball at Niles' 49 with 7:52 left in the third quarter.

But the Eddies were unable to take advantage of the miscue, as the Vikings' defense held running back Caden DeHart to a one-yard run on a 4th-and-4 at the Vikings' 43.

On its next offensive possession Edwardsburg had great field position at Niles' 49 after a 14-yard punt by the Vikings.

The Eddies took advantage of that field position and pulled within 14-12 after sophomore Gio Orue scored on a 24-yard run with 11:07 left in the game. The two-point conversion run failed.

What followed was a gamble by Purlee, who had his team attempt an onside kick. The Eddies' Logan Kovach recovered the onside kick, but it was nullified after an offsides penalty was called on Edwardsburg.

Jeff Douglas / For Leader Publications

The Niles football team clashed with rival Edwardsburg in the regular season finale.

Purlee could be seen on the sidelines arguing at officials about the call.

"I was not happy," the Eddies coach said.

Edwardsburg still had chances to win the game, with their final opportunity coming on a fourth-and-four at its own 49 with 4:02 left in the game.

But the Eddies failed to convert the fourth down, as the Vikings' Max Rucker sacked Savoie and caused a 16-yard loss.

After getting its lone first down in the second half on a 30-yard run from Elijah Norris, Niles scored three plays later on a one-yard plunge from Norris to take a 21-12 lead with :51 left in the game.

"That drive came from my frustration," Norris said. "I was upset about how they had just driven the ball down the field on us – that was a great drive. I was angry on the sideline, pacing back and forth. So, when I went into the game on offense and we got the ball, I knew I had to make a drive and make something happen. I told my team I needed them, and I told my line I needed them to help me drive, and I drove the ball all the way up the field the best I could."

Niles coach Scot Shaw was happy to see his team prevail in a very competitive game against its rival.

"Hard fought," said Niles coach Scot Shaw about Friday's game. "We had to fight tooth and nail down there with around two minutes to go to put it away.

"We just couldn't get anything going offensively consistently. Our defense played really well. To give up only 12 points to that offense is a pretty good effort. I'm proud of everyone on our team. We finished our goal of going 9-0 and being conference champs."

The top offensive performer for the Eddies was Orue, who rushed for 95 yards on 23 carries.

"We just kind of sputtered out offensively there towards the end," Purlee said.

"But hats off to Niles. They're a great team."

Niles and Edwardsburg will learn their postseason opponents at 5 p.m. Sunday on the "Selection Sunday Show" on the NFHS Network. A subscription is not required to watch the Selection Sunday Show.

The playoff qualifiers and pairings will be posted to the MHSAA Website following the Selection Sunday Show, and times and dates will be added Monday, Oct. 27.

The MHSAA Football Playoffs conclude with the 11-Player Finals to be played Nov. 28 and 30 at Ford Field.

BRANDYWINE

From page B2

"We weren't consistent enough against Berrien to come out with a victory but the kids fought incredibly hard when they could have folded up shop and called it a day. I think they made the connection between their practice habits and game performance, and continued to be focused into the final week against Mount Clemens. We talked about that game really being the first game of next season. It can either keep us on the right trajectory, build momentum for the offseason, recruit more kids to the program, stoke excitement...or it could leave a really bad hangover for months. The seniors did a fantastic job of being more vocal leaders towards the end of the season, and the underclassmen were much more comfortable in what they had to do each day."

Overall, Miller saw the team make strides with the fundamentals of blocking, tackling and protecting the football.

"As a staff, we had to step back early in the season and start teaching concepts more simply; there was just a major need for basic, building block fundamentals in terms of skill, technique, and vocabulary," Miller said. "One of the ideas we talk to the kids about all the time is that you have an opponent who is trying to beat you. That other team is doing everything it can to take the game from you. So, we can't do things that help them do that. That makes our job infinitely more difficult. So, as the season progressed, it was nice to see our kids take that to heart.

"We were not committing stupid penalties, we weren't turning the ball over so much, we weren't standing around on defense...good things tend to happen, your luck seems to improve when you just play really hard all the time, and it was nice to see that from the kids towards the end of the season."

During the season, Miller made the decision to elevate freshman quarterback Parker Anglin to starter to accelerate his progress and in an effort to free up senior Kaeden Warfield to allow him to make plays on both sides of the ball.

"Kaeden Warfield is good at football," Miller said. "That is why we started with him at QB, just put the ball in the hands of our best player. But he really isn't a QB, and that was limiting his ability to affect the game as much as he could, so making the decision to move to a freshman QB, Parker Anglin, was as much about the team as any other choice we made, maybe even moreso. Warfield has a high football IQ and was an easy player to move around in terms of offense, defense, and special teams. Parker is a typical freshman, physically, but is more mentally mature than that.

"He took his lumps and made mistakes one expects from a freshman starting QB in a brand new scheme, along with every other player also playing in a new scheme, but showed great aptitude and coachability as the season progressed. He also continues to develop as a leader."

Miller also highlighted the efforts of players including Will Hubbard, Jaxson Andrews, Kaden Santana, Emerson Gogley and Nylen Goins, who continued to show progress in spite of the season's challenges.

"Will and Jaxson were great on the offensive line, in terms of being able to pick up new concepts well. Kaden, Emerson and Nylen did a great job at the skill positions on offense, especially someone like Nylen, who was playing football for the first time in high school, as a senior. Ryder Richard was also a senior who played for the first time in high school and became one of our most productive players on defense. Mason Flynn and Brady Okerbloom are freshmen who stepped up, especially to help create more depth and plug holes on defense. We threw a ton at these kids this season, and we are very impressed with how they progressed from the beginning to end of the season."

Miller thanked the seniors for their dedication to the team and for helping to create the foundation for the program.

"Our seniors were phenomenal," he said. "It is never easy to undergo a coaching transition, especially as a senior, but they jumped in the deep end right away and never looked back. They understand that getting this program turned around starts with the legacy they leave, and they took that seriously. It was nice to see them get some of their classmates to join, too, even if it was just for one season. I think the mark of a good program is when kids want to try it out, when kids are drawn to it, when there is evidence of kids enjoying the experience; the seniors definitely helped us create that this year."

While the seniors will be missed, Miller said 19 players who saw snaps on this year's team are expected to play important roles next season. For Miller, his first full offseason as Brandywine coach will be spent addressing his priorities for the program.

"We need to get stronger, faster, and learn more football," he said. "We need to continue to promote growth in our program in terms of the number of kids and also how those kids develop as overall people. Our team GPA is good but we want it to get higher. We will qualify for Team Academic All State, which is awesome! We raised $500 in our Tackle Cancer game, and we will keep finding ways to be involved in the Brandywine community. We need to get our kids to embrace the fact they are leaders in the school, whether they like it or not, and use that platform to improve themselves and their school.

"Our coaches need to keep getting better. We will be full speed ahead on Nov. 3, and everything we do in the offseason for our kids and coaches will be about continuing to develop happy, healthy, high performance individuals."

TITLE

From page B2

four kills. Hanah McCuddy finished with a team-high 40 assists and Claire Hess with 27 assists.

From the service line, McCuddy led the team with six aces, Deering and Shivers each had five aces, Todd had four aces and Hess added two. Carpenter also recorded 1 ace.

Defensively, Zabrina Shivers led the back row with 23 digs. Deering had 13 digs and Tatiyana Lara was close behind with 11 digs. Hess contributed 10 digs and McCuddy tallied eight digs. At the net, Carpenter led the blocking effort with five blocks, followed by Campbell and Henry with three blocks each. Deering, Nate, and Todd each recorded two blocks.

"On Saturday we started out the first set against Berrien Springs strong but not strong enough to win the first set," said Dowagiac coach Amber Todd. "After that set, adjustments were made to the lineup, and the team came out fired up. As a whole the team was consistent and gave full effort to come out on top."

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legals@pmginmi.com
classified@heraldpalladium.com

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on November 19, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by William L. Smiley, a single person, whose address is 14260 M. 60 Highway, Jones, Michigan 49061, as original Mortgagors, to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., being a mortgage dated February 8, 2010, and recorded on February 22, 2010 in Liber 1007 Page 22, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated July 9, 2025 and recorded on July 9, 2025 in Liber 1262 Page 1415, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE AND 59/100 DOLLARS ($31,571.59). Said premises are situated in the Township of Newberg, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN TOWNSHIP OF NEWBERG, CASS COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 32, TOWN 6 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, MEASURE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 1211.50 FEET, THENCE MEASURE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST 937.74 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 0 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST 43.26 FEET; THENCE EAST 152.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST 253.43 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF STATE HIGHWAY M 60; THENCE NORTH 82 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID CENTER LINE 376.92 FEET; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST 184.14 FEET; THENCE NORTH 10 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST 38.94 FEET; THENCE NORTH 67 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST 72.96 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST 134.71 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO THAT PORTION ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE THEREOF AS BEING USED FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES. ALSO SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD. BY FEE SIMPLE DEED FROM TROTT & TROTT PC, AS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT FOR FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION. AS SET FORTH IN BOOK 985 PAGE 976 DATED 10/30/2008 AND RECORDED 11/04/2008, CASS COUNTY RECORDS. STATE OF MICHIGAN. Street Address: 14260 M. 60 Highway, Jones, Michigan 49061 The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: October 18, 2025, For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6766

SECTION 001113
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

1.01 PROJECT NAME:
A. Zollar Building – Partial Roof Improvements
1.02 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
A. This project consists of a partial roof replacement to the Charles O. Zollar Building at Southwestern Michigan College. This replacement will be a full tear off of the existing roof and will replace it with a KEE roof membrane system with insulation to achieve an R-value of R-30.
1.03 OWNER:
A. Southwestern Michigan College
58900 Cherry Grove Road
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047
1.04 ARCHITECT:
A. CARMI Design Group
210 E. Main Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 487
Niles, MI 49120
Phone: 269-663-5073
1.05 BID DATE:
A. Bids will be received at the Student Service Center on the Niles Campus of Southwestern Michigan College until 7:45 AM (local time) on Wednesday November 12, 2025. Bids received after this time will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened. Niles Campus: 33890 US Hwy 12, Niles, MI 49120
B. Bids will be publicly opened at a special meeting of the College's Board of Trustees at 8:00 AM on November 12, 2025, in the Student Service Center on the Niles Campus and read aloud at this time. Niles Campus: 33890 US Hwy 12, Niles, MI 49120
C. Bids shall be properly and completely executed on the Bid Proposal Form included within the Project Manual and submitted in duplicate. Bids shall be clearly marked as "SMC Zollar Building Roof Improvements" on the front of the submitted envelope.
1.06 PRE-BID MEETING:
A. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on October 29, 2025, at 2:30 PM (local time) at the main entrance of the Charles O. Zollar Building on the Dowagiac campus. Bidders will then have the opportunity to walk the Zollar Building roof.
1.07 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND USE:
A. Bid Documents may be viewed at the following Plan Rooms on or after October 23, 2025.
1. Builders Exchange of Kalamazoo www.builder-exchange.com
2. Builders Exchange of Lansing www.bxlansing.com
3. Builders Exchange of Michigan www.grbx.com
4. Construction Association of Michigan www.BuildwithCAM.com
5. ConstructConnect www.constructconnect.com
6. Dodge Construction Network www.construction.com
7. MACIAF (South Bend, IN) www.constructionsite.org
B. Bidding documents are available electronically at no charge, via email. Please email your request to cadmin@carmi.biz.
C. Contact cadmin@carmi.biz, with bidding questions. Please cc: tanner@carmi.biz
1.08 BONDS:
A. A five percent (5%) Bid Bond shall accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond, Labor and Material Bonds, and certificates of Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance.
1.09 OTHER CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION:
A. Each bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees or the president of the college.
B. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of **Thirty (30) calendar days** after the date set for bid opening.
C. Public Act 517 of 2012 (effective December 31, 2012) enacted the "Iran Economic Sanctions Act", which prevents "Iran linked businesses" from submitting a bid on a request for proposals (RFP) with a public entity. This law requires that persons submitting bids certify that they are not an "Iran linked business," which is defined as either:
1. A person engaging in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran, including a person that provides oil or liquefied natural gas tankers or products used to construct or maintain pipelines used to transport oil or liquefied natural gas for the energy sector of Iran; or
2. A financial institution that extends credit to another person, if that person will use the credit to engage in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran.
D. Southwestern Michigan College reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or irregularities in bids, and to accept any bid that is deemed most advantageous to the public interest.

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on November 26, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Brandon L. Petersheim, married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Ruoff Mortgage Company, Inc.
Date of Mortgage: June 6, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 7, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $205,382.31
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the East quarter post of Section 35, Town 6 South, Range 15 West; thence South 5 rods; thence West 18 rods; thence North 5 rods; thence East 18 rods to the place of beginning. EXCEPT the West 8 rods thereof.
Common street address (if any): 510 S O Keefe St, Cassopolis, MI 49031-1225
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 25, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1575157 (10-25)(11-15)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY CASE NO. U-21877

· Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission for approval to implement a power supply cost recovery plan for the twelve months ending December 31, 2026.

· The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

· You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, 517-367-1242, for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the Commission's website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/.

· A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: Friday, November 21, 2025, at 10:00 AM

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Lesley C. Fairrow

LOCATION: Video/Teleconference

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at LARA-MOAHR-PSC@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) September 30, 2025 application requesting the Commission to: 1) approve I&M's 2026 Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) Plan as reasonable and prudent and a PSCR factor of 1.93 mills per kWh for each billing month from January 2026 through December 2026; 2) authorize I&M to continue the roll-in methodology in connection with its PSCR clause; and 3) grant I&M such other additional relief as it may deem appropriate.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by November 14, 2025. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Jason T. Hanselman, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process for participating in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. **U-21877.** Statements may be emailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

The Utility Consumer Representation Fund has been created for the purpose of aiding in the representation of residential utility customers in various Commission proceedings. Contact the Chairperson, Utility Consumer Participation Board, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30004, Lansing, Michigan 48909, for more information.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; and Parts 1 & 4 of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448.

U-21877

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on DECEMBER 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jerry L. Parker and Theresa Hart, husband and wife, to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan), Mortgagee, dated March 13, 2009, and recorded April 24, 2009, in Liber 993, Page 913 Cass County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Six Thousand One Hundred Eight and 89/100 Dollars ($146,108.89).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on DECEMBER 3, 2025.
Said premises are located in the City of Jones, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWN 6 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 463.86 FEET; THENCE NORTH 12°08' EAST, 152.05 FEET; THENCE NORTH 77°52' WEST, 30.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 12°08' EAST, 361.29 FEET; THENCE NORTH 65°29' WEST, 296.92 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF STATE HIGHWAY M-40; THENCE NORTH 12°08' EAST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, 428.88 FEET; THENCE ALONG SAID CENTERLINE ON A CURVE TO THE LEFT, 510.20 FEET TO A POINT 44.00 FEET SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE FROM THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD (NOW ABANDONED); THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION WHICH IS NORTH 0°39' WEST, 1455.50 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID WEST HALF; THENCE SOUTH 0°39' EAST ALONG SAID EAST LINE 1455.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
61893 M 40, Jones, Michigan 49061
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: November 1, 2025
File No. 25-013121
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(11-01)(11-22)

STATE OF MICHIGAN BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY CASE NO. U-21682

• Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission 2026-2027 Energy Waste Reduction Plan and the associated surcharges.

• The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

• You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company, Benton Harbor Service Center, 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, 517-367-1242, for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the Commission's website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/.

• A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 9:30 AM

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders

LOCATION: Video/Teleconference

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at LARA-MOAHR-PSC@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) October 1, 2025, application requesting the Commission to 1) approve I&M's 2026-2027 Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) Plan and the associated surcharges; 2) approve I&M's Notice of Intent to select the EWR Administrator and make alternative compliance payments; 3) determine that I&M's EWR plan, as proposed, fulfills all of the statutory requirements of 2008 PA 295, as amended, and approve the surcharges, to recover the costs of the EWR plan; and 4) grant I&M such other and additional relief as shall be lawful and proper.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by November 18, 2025. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Jason T. Hanselman, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process for participating in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. **U-21682.** Statements may be emailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq., and Parts 1 & 4 of the Administrative Hearing Rules of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, R 792.10106(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7); R 792.10121; and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448.

U-21682

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0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Berrien COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO.
2022-0407-DE-J

Estate of:
William Martin Williams
Date of birth: 08/14/1928

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, William Martin Williams, died 08/11/1998. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Victoria Williams, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St., St Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 06/03/2025

Victoria Williams
Personal representative
3151 Stillhouse Creek Dr., Bldg 6, Unit 4419
Address
Atlanta, GA 30339
City, state, zip
574-274-0527
Telephone

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Berrien COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO.
2025-0311-DE-J

Estate of:
Kevin Ross Beavers, Dec.
Date of birth: 11/07/1963

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Kevin Ross Beavers, died 07/17/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Wanda Beavers, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St., St Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 06/03/2025

Gregory H. Feldman P48645
Attorney name Bar no.
69045 M-62, Ste 6
Address
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
City, State, Zip
269-414-4249
Telephone no.

Wanda Beavers
Personal representative
12286 Genevieve St.
Address
Caldwell, ID 83607
City, state, zip

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF Berrien

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-0797-DE-M
Hon. Mable Johnson Mayfield

Estate of: Joseph Allen Mottl Jr.
Date of birth: 07/12/1952

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Joseph Allen Mottl Jr., died 07/19/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Robert A. Mottl, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St. St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 10/24/2025

Heidi A. Duncan P76168
Attorney name Bar no.
107 Pennsylvania Ave
Address
Dowagiac, MI 49047
City, State, Zip
269-782-9895
Telephone no.

Robert A. Mottl
Personal representative
124 Eastgate Circle
Address
Mishawaka, IN 46544
City, state, zip
269-362-3262
Telephone

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICAL COURT-
FAMILY DIVISON
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE OF HEARING
TERMINATION OF
PARENTAL RIGHTS

In the matter of: KAZ

FILE NO.
2025-146-AY

TO: Jesse David Zumbrun
14503 N. River Road
Ft. Thomas, AZ 85536

TAKE NOTICE: On December 2, 2025, at 4:00p.m. in the ZOOM courtroom 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031, before Honorable Carol S. Bealor, Probate Judge a hearing will be held on the **PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PATERNAL RIGHTS**, the Law provides that you should be notified of this hearing. If you fail to appear at this hearing **YOUR PATERNAL RIGHTS MAY BE TERMINATED**. If you choose to attend this hearing and you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

Date 10/08/2025

Gennel C. Laluna-Schaeffer P65387
Attorney name Bar no.
511 Renaissance Dr, Ste 110
Address
St. Joesph, MI 49085
City, state, zip
269-983-5777
Telephone no.

Ashley & Jeffery Deal
Petitioner name
1864 Allen Road
Address
Niles, MI 49120 269-845-6831
City, State, Zip Phone no.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICAL COURT-
FAMILY DIVISON
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE OF HEARING
TERMINATION OF
PARENTAL RIGHTS

In the matter of: PRZ

FILE NO.
2025-147-AY

TO: Jesse David Zumbrun
14503 N. River Road
Ft. Thomas, AZ 85536

TAKE NOTICE: On December 2, 2025, at 4:00p.m. in the ZOOM courtroom 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031, before Honorable Carol S. Bealor, Probate Judge a hearing will be held on the **PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PATERNAL RIGHTS**, the Law provides that you should be notified of this hearing. If you fail to appear at this hearing **YOUR PATERNAL RIGHTS MAY BE TERMINATED**. If you choose to attend this hearing and you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

Date 10/27/2025

Gennel C. Laluna-Schaeffer P65387
Attorney name Bar no.
511 Renaissance Dr, Ste 110
Address
St. Joesph, MI 49085
City, state, zip
269-983-5777
Telephone no.

Ashley & Jeffery Deal
Petitioner name
1864 Allen Road
Address
Niles, MI 49120 269-845-6831
City, State, Zip Phone no.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-20250009-DE

In the matter of
Una Mae Beadle, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:
Christopher P. Hoshal

whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on November 24, 2025, at 10:30am at Cass County Probate Court--via Zoom before Judge Carol M. Bealor P57068 for the following purpose:

I have submitted a Petition to Deposit Shares of Missing Legatees in the Cass County Missing Legatees fund.
Below are the relevant instructions for zoom: By Phone/ Computer: (1) install and launch the zoom app onto your phone/ computer or go to www.zoom.us; (2) click "Join a Meeting." Enter the Meeting ID for Judge Bealor: 95279201368, and the password: 385529; (3) Update your screen name to your name. By Telephone (Audio Only): Call 646-876-9923; (2) Enter the Meeting ID for Judge Bealor: 95279201368, and the password: 385529.

Date October 22, 2025

Nicole M. Laruwe P75562
Attorney name Bar no.
7 West Square Lake Road
Address
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
City, state, zip
248-648-1148
Telephone no.

William Beadle
Personal representative name
19942 South Metcalf Ct.
Address
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
City, state, zip
(269) 641-7353
Telephone no.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-279-DE

Court address & phone no.
60296 M-62 #6,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-4475

Estate of:
Wilma Jean Overgaard, Deceased
Date of Birth:* 11/27/1946

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Wilma Jean Overgaard, died 09/02/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Joshua Overgaard, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62 #6, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date October 28,2025

Gwendolyn Powell Braswell P79797
Attorney name Bar no.
500 Renaissance Drive, Suite 104A
Address
Saint Joseph, MI 49085
City, state, zip
269-932-4017
Telephone no.

Joshua Overgaard
Personal representative
1021 Portage Avenue
Address
South Bend, IN 46616
City, state, zip
(574)210-4979
Telephone no.

White Space Sells

2026-2029 Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP)
The Pokagon Band has developed a draft Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). The draft TTIP identifies and prioritizes transportation projects proposed for the next 4 years and provides planning level cost estimates for those projects.
Priorities are based upon the 2026 funding for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) as allocated by Congress and will change from year to year based upon a variety of factors.
Copies of the draft TTIP are available at the Pokagon Band Department of Housing & Community Development Offices, at 57824 Potawatomi Trail, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047, or by e-mailing a request for a copy to: Robert.Torzynski@PokagonBand-nsn.gov.
Questions regarding the draft Pokagon Band TTIP may be addressed to Pokagon Band Planning Manager, Robert Torzynski, at (269) 782-4896 or by email at the address provided above.
The public is entitled and encouraged to review the draft TTIP and respond in writing at the above provided e-mail address. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Monday, November 10, 2025.
October 25, 2025

0900 LEGALS

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Just Simple Storage - Menominee located at N710 County Rd 577, Menominee, MI, 49858 intends to hold an Auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur as an Online auction via www.bid13.com on 11/20/2025 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise, the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #48; Unit #8. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.
7528-323366

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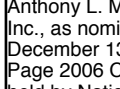

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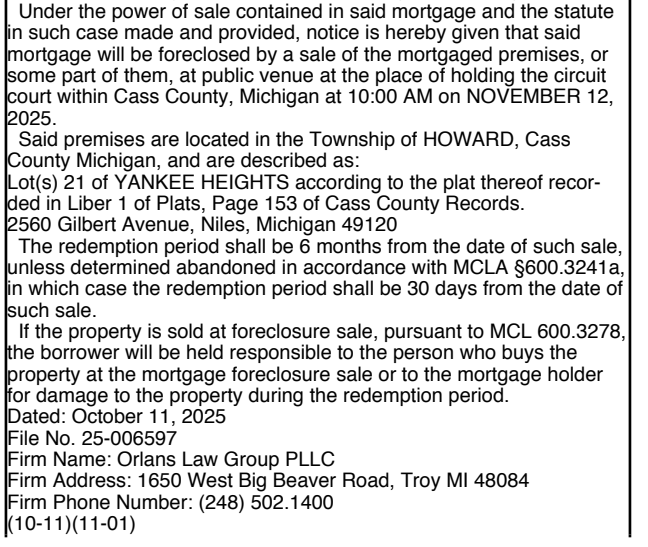
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Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on NOVEMBER 12, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Anthony L. May, a man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for United Federal Credit Union, Mortgagee, dated December 13, 2021, and recorded December 27, 2021, in Liber 1209, Page 2006 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred One Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Six and 13/100 Dollars ($201,446.13).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on NOVEMBER 12, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of HOWARD, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot(s) 21 of YANKEE HEIGHTS according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 153 of Cass County Records.
2560 Gilbert Avenue, Niles, Michigan 49120
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: October 11, 2025
File No. 25-006597
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-11)(11-01)

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Present Pillars Fall Family Run/Walk: 10 a.m. Nov. 1. Join Present Pillars for a refreshing fall morning at the beautiful Sarett Nature Center as we walk, jog, or run together to support youth outdoor programs. This 5K-style Fun Run/Walk invites families, friends, and community members of all ages to explore the trails and celebrate nature. To sign up or for more information, go to https://runsignup.com/race/MI/bentonharbor/grandmerechallenge5k

Email info for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com, or call 429-1294 by Wednesday.

Researcher hopes to solve the mystery of the vanishing Minnesota moose

By TONY KENNEDY
Star Tribune (TNS)

As a young wildlife biologist, Adam Mortensen has worked in the mountains of New Mexico, the high desert of northern California and the wilderness of Isle Royale, where he lived out of a tent and backpacked daily to study wolves.

Now he will ride a snowmobile through the forests of far northeastern Minnesota to help solve the mystery of disappearing moose.

Mortensen, a Wisconsin native, will live in Grand Marais for the next five years to help identify how yearling and 2- and 3-year-old moose contribute to restoring Minnesota's moose population, which is half the size of what it was 20 years ago.

That age group is in need of study, experts say, and it's hoped that the results will help identify habitat and wildlife management strategies to benefit the twig-eating animals called mooz by the Ojibwe.

"It's the most fun job ever," said Michelle Carstensen, wildlife health program supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "All moose, all the time."

The job listing, issued by St. Paul-based National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation, drew more than 50 high-caliber applicants from as far away as Alaska, Texas and Florida, Carstensen said.

If you weren't a hard-core wildlife biologist, you might balk at the job requirements. Among them: navigating icy northwoods roads on short notice, weekends included, to locate a freshly fallen moose.

Mortensen said he wasn't daunted by the job description, one that will require him to off-road into the vast backcountry surrounding the Boundary Waters on an ATV or snowmobile. Young moose in the study will be wearing tracking collars that also signal when they die. Performing necropsies in the bush is part of the job – all for $65,000 a year.

"It'll be some white-knuckle driving and I don't have a ton of snowmobile experience," Mortensen confessed. "So, yeah, let's see. I might change my answer."

He was kidding. Mortensen, 26, said he's grown accustomed to the comforts of living in Duluth as a masters degree student at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where he's close to finishing his degree. Grand Marais, 110 miles northeast of Duluth with a permanent population of about 1,300 people, will provide an interesting change of pace, he said.

"It'll be nice to live in such a beautiful place," Mortensen said. "I'll have to get myself a pair of cross-country skis."

Carstensen said Mortensen's presence in Minnesota's primary moose range will strengthen a five-year research project that aims to collar 80 yearling moose – 60 females and 20 males – in each of the first three years, in winter. The field work includes collection of fecal samples to lab-test whether the females are pregnant. Putting tracking collars on moose that are 8 to 9 months old has been proven safe in field work by Seth Moore, director of biology and environment for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Moore, Carstensen and Morgan Swingen of the 1854 Treaty Authority are collaborating on the $2 million project, funded by state lottery proceeds. It's the National Parks of Lake Superior group that's employing Mortensen. The helicopter-aided captures will take place in three broad areas around Ely, Isabella and Grand Marais, including the Gunflint Trail.

"The focus is on young females and pregnancy rates as they age," Carstensen said. "It's really about filling an info gap. These young moose haven't been studied."

Previous research has shown that wolves and bears prey on baby moose in Minnesota. But biologists are trying to determine whether there's another common cause of mortality for yearlings and 2-year-olds.

Photo provided / Don Estep

A Pacific loon on Oct. 12, offshore over Lake Michigan in Berrien County waters.

Pacific loon spotted offshore

Jonathan Wuepper
Southwest Michigan Wildlife

Don Estep of LaPorte continues to add to our knowledge of local bird life through his offshore birding excursions.

Estep and others have been boating several miles offshore, but still in Berrien County waters, and recording several interesting bird species not normally seen from land.

Among the highlights of Estep's offshore birding excursions are at least two records of the Pacific loon. Photographs of a bird seen on Oct. 12 of this year, in addition to a Pacific loon seen about a year ago are featured in today's column.

The Pacific loon photographed by Estep on Oct. 12 was still in breeding (summer) plumage. Pacific loons in the breeding season sport a gray nape with a distinct checkered patch on the back and black-and-white vertical lines on the side of the neck.

In winter, the Pacific loon has a black back, nape and upper wings and a white neck. The species has a white belly in all seasons. The Pacific loon is mid-size between the larger common loon and the slender-er red-throated loon. The latter two species are found regularly offshore of Southwest Michigan from fall through spring.

The Pacific loon nests on the shores of the Arctic ocean and along the shores of inland lakes of far northern Alaska, and Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, Canada. It migrates south each fall to the Pacific Ocean from the Alaskan panhandle south to Baja California and the Gulf of California, where it winters.

The first Southwest Michigan record of the Pacific loon was seen by Jim Granlund on Nov. 1, 1998 offshore of South Haven. The first Berrien County record was found by myself on April 25, 2004 offshore of Pier Road in Chikaming Township. This bird remained until April 27, 2004.

Since 2004, at least seven additional records of the Pacific loon have been published from Berrien County. There have been a few dozen records of the species from northwest Indiana. In contrast, tens of thousands of common loons migrate through the region each year. Most records of the Pacific loon in Southwest Michigan have been during October and November.

Photo provided / Don Estep

A Pacific loon over Lake Michigan in Berrien County on Oct. 25, 2024.

Photo provided / Brad Anderson

Sparrows on Oct. 8 at the Chris Thompson Preserve in Chikaming Township.

On Oct. 8, Brad Anderson found several white-crowned sparrows at the Chris Thompson Preserve in Chikaming Township. The white-crowned sparrow is a common spring and fall migrant through the region. If you feed birds, chances are you have seen the white-crowned sparrow picking up seeds that have fallen to the ground.

Southbound white-crowned sparrows are usually first reported locally during the last days of September, numbers peak in October. Most of the white-crowned sparrow population migrates into the southeast U.S. for the winter. There are always a scattered few that remain in the region throughout the winter.

The last ruby-throated hummingbird reported locally was one that remained until Oct. 13 at the feeders of Brad and Hannah Anderson in Bridgman. On average, the last ruby-throated hummingbird is reported in Berrien County each fall around Oct. 20. Any hummingbirds sighted locally on or after Oct. 20 should be reported immediately to myself or to Michigan hummingbird researcher Allen T. Chartier at amazilia3@gmail.com.

It is likely that any hummingbirds sighted locally in late fall are a species other than our common ruby-throated hummingbird. Photographs or videos of late hummingbirds are strongly encouraged.

Jonathan Wuepper is an area naturalist. Report your sightings to him at wuepperj@gmail.com

A rogue Santa Cruz otter is terrorizing surfers: The redux

By SUSANNE RUST
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

LOS ANGELES — It's been two years since a Santa Cruz sea otter, known as 841, garnered international attention and celebrity by attacking surfers and their surfboards as the human wave-riders alley-ooped over the waves of the legendary Steamer Lane.

It's happening again.

This time, the identity of the otter is unclear. That's because while 841 (who was born in captivity) carried a light blue tag on her right flipper, this otter is naked.

Experts say 841 could have chewed off her tag, or it could have broken off on its own. Otter flipper tags are designed to last an animal's lifespan, but research shows they don't always last so long.

It's also possible this is an entirely different otter who may have watched 841 in the past, and is adopting her curious and bold behavior. It could be a relative. Or it could be this otter just has a similar surfboard appetite and hostage-taking drive.

On Thursday afternoon, roughly three dozen surfers were lined up to catch waves at Steamer Lane – just below the Santa Cruz coastline's cliffs near the city's iconic lighthouse and surfer statue.

Mark Woodward, a Santa Cruz-based social media influencer and dedicated 841 observer and chronicler, said he wasn't sure whether this was 841, or someone different.

He said the animal's behavior was almost identical. However, while 841 tended to hang close to the cliffs in 2023, this otter appeared to spend more time a bit farther out – closer to the offshore kelp beds.

He saw 841 last year – tag on – visiting the same waters but keeping her distance from people.

The only otter seen on Thursday was way off shore, floating on its back atop a kelp bed – presumably eating some tasty morsel, such as a crab or abalone, retrieved from the sea floor.

Pelicans glided over the cresting waves, while a harbor seal watched the surfers for a bit before diving under the surface and disappearing from sight.

During the summer of 2023, federal wildlife officials tried to capture 841. They sent out boats, rafts and swimmers. She evaded every attempt and eventually gave birth to a pup, whom she cradled on her chest as she floated atop the water – or placed on top of the kelp as she dived to the bottom to retrieve food. And she stopped chasing surfboards.

Eric Laughlin, spokesman for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead otter-response agency in this case. However, possibly due to the federal government shutdown, the agency did not respond to questions about the surfing-curious otter in Santa Cruz.

Laughlin said the state agency had no plans "to intervene with the sea otter currently interacting with humans in Santa Cruz."

Research on California sea otters shows that along the central coast, there is "extreme individuality in diet and behavior." Some of the variation is the result of relatively low food availability, requiring the clever creatures to figure out unique ways of finding and retrieving food. However, the researchers also noted some behavioral traits seemed to follow family lines, especially those "maintained along matrilines."

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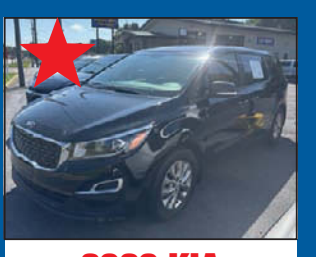

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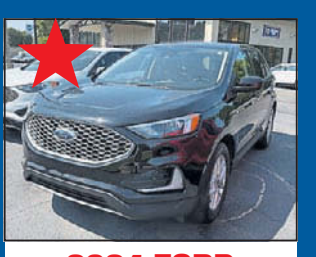

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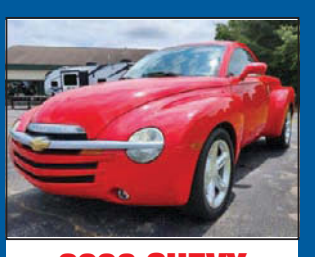

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